

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A data delivering method delivering data from a source device to a destination device in a system including the source device, a first relay device, a second relay device connected to the first relay device in series, and the destination device, comprising:

generating structure information, which includes first information to identify first element data to be collected by the first relay device, second information to identify second element data to be collected by the second relay device and third information to identify the second relay device and the destination device, by the source device;

collecting the first element data by the first relay device according to the first information in the structure information;

transmitting the first element data and the structure information from the first relay device to the second relay device according to the third information in the structure information;

collecting the second element data by the second relay device according to the second information in the structure information; and

delivering the first and the second element data from the second relay device to the destination device according to the third information in the structure information.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A data delivering method delivering data from a source device to a destination device in a system including the source device, a first relay device, and second and third relay devices arranged in parallel, comprising:

generating structure information, which includes first information to identify first element data to be collected by the first relay device, second information to identify second element data to be collected by the second relay device, third information to identify third element data to be collected by the third relay device and fourth information to identify the second relay device and

the third relay device, by the source device;

collecting the first element data by the first relay device according to the first information in the structure information;

transmitting the first element data and the structure information from the first relay device to both of the second and third relay devices according to the fourth information in the structure information;

collecting the second element data by the second relay device according to the second information in the structure information;

delivering the first and the second element data from the second relay device to a destination device connected to the second relay device;

collecting the third element data by the third relay device according to the third information in the structure information; and

delivering the first and the third element data from the third relay device to a destination device connected to the third relay device.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A data delivering system delivering data from a source device to a destination device in a system including the source device, a first relay device, a second relay device connected to the first relay device in series, and the destination device, the data delivering system comprising:

said source device generating structure information which includes first information to identify first element data to be collected by the first relay device, second information to identify second element data to be collected by the second relay device and third information to identify the second relay device and the destination device,

said first relay device collecting the first element data according to the first information in the structure information and transmitting the first element data and the structure information to said second relay device according to the third information in the structure information, and

said second relay device collecting the second element data and delivering the first and second element data according to the second information in the structure information.

14. (previously presented) A data delivering system delivering data from a source device to a destination device in a system including the source device, a first relay device, and second and third relay devices arranged in parallel, the data delivering system comprising:

said source device generating structure information which includes first information to identify first element data to be collected by the first relay device, second information to identify second element data to be collected by the second relay device, third information to identify third element data to be collected by the third relay device and fourth information to identify the second relay device and the third relay device,

said first relay device collecting the first element data according to the first information in the structure information and transmitting the first element data and the structure information to both the second and third relay devices according to the fourth information in the structure information,

said second relay device collecting the second element data and delivering the first and second element data to a destination device connected to said second relay device according to the second information in the structure information, and

said third relay device collecting the third element data and delivering the first and third element data to a destination device connected to said third relay device according to the third information in the structure information.

15-18 (canceled)